IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

2. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that xenon is present in a pharmacologically effective amount.

3. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 6 characterized in that the preparation for cerebral protection further comprises oxygen and an inert gas.

4. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that ~~the preparation is used as a combination product with a gaseous, liquid or solid preparation~~ xenon and the medicament comprising an NO source~~, for simultaneous, separate or sequential use~~ are used simultaneously , separately or sequentially.

5. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim [[9]] 6 where xenon and the NO source are present in pharmacologically effective concentrations.

6. (Currently amended) In a method of treating a patient characterized in that a xenon preparation is provided in a form of a combination medicament comprising xenon selected from the group consisting of gaseous xenon and a xenon containing gas mixture, and a medicament that comprises an NO source, administering the xenon to a patient in a subanesthetic amount wherein ~~what is~~ the xenon containing gas mixture administered to the patient contains no more than 70% by volume of xenon and when the ~~preparation~~ xenon containing gas mixture itself contains more than 70% by volume xenon the ~~preparation~~ xenon containing gas mixture is metered into the patient's respiratory gas so that the combined gas supplied to the patient contains from 5 to 70% by volume xenon, administering the medicament that comprises an NO

source orally, by inhalation or parentally, and the ~~preparation~~ combination medicament is administered to a patient for a condition selected from the group consisting of the treatment of impairments of blood flow in the brain, the treatment of impairment of cerebral perfusion, the treatment of cognitive impairments, cerebral protection, the therapy of impairments of cognitive performance and also postoperatively, the treatment of stroke, improving the oxygen supply in the brain, the treatment of post-ischemia syndrome, promoting blood flow in the brain, the treatment of postoperative cognitive dysfunction, and cerebral vasodilatation, and selecting as a patient some one having such condition~~, and administering the xenon preparation to the patient having such condition~~.

7. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim [[8]] 6, wherein the preparation is used for a condition selected from the group consisting of cerebral protection, cerebral vasodilatation, and the treatment, therapy ~~or prophylaxis~~ of impairments of cognitive performance or cognitive dysfunction.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the preparation further comprises oxygen.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the preparation consists of xenon and an NO source.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)